



1 he could have obtained the benefit of acceptance of responsibility for pleading guilty  
2 immediately, and that if he had done so, he would have received -3 for acceptance of  
3 responsibility.

4 The Court finds that this issue has been waived. Any ineffective assistance of counsel  
5 occurred earlier, and would only resulted in Placido's missing his opportunity to plead guilty  
6 without a plea agreement earlier in the process. But by the time of the sentencing hearing,  
7 that claimed problem was already past, and did not affect his ability to accept or reject the  
8 offer at issue here. The offer was explained to him in open court, where he had the benefit  
9 of an interpreter, and he confirmed his agreement. (Sentencing Tr. at 5:18–25.) See *Tollett*  
10 *v. Henderson*, 411 U.S. 258, 267 (1973) (“When a criminal defendant has solemnly admitted  
11 in open court that he is in fact guilty of the offense with which he is charged, he may not  
12 thereafter raise independent claims relating to the deprivation of constitutional rights that  
13 occurred prior to the entry of the guilty plea. He may only attack the voluntary and intelligent  
14 character of the guilty plea . . . .”); *United States v. Lopez–Armenta*, 400 F.3d 1173, 1175  
15 (9th Cir .2005) (“[I]t is well-settled that an unconditional guilty plea constitutes a waiver of the  
16 right to appeal all nonjurisdictional antecedent rulings and cures all antecedent constitutional  
17 defects.”).

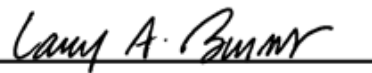
18 But even assuming the issue were not waived, it is meritless. The sole claim Placido's  
19 motion raises says he failed to receive -3 for acceptance of responsibility due to his counsel's  
20 ineffective assistance. But the fact is, he did receive -3. (Sentencing Tr. 4:5–7 (government's  
21 recommendation that Placido be given -3 for acceptance of responsibility), 12:11–12 (Court's  
22 guideline calculations, subtracting three points for acceptance of responsibility). Moreover,  
23 the resulting guideline range was 57 to 71 months (*Id.* at 12:9–13), yet the Court imposed  
24 a below-guidelines sentence of 48 months. (*Id.* at 13:5–7.) Placido received the full benefit  
25 of acceptance of responsibility, and even if he hadn't, it would have made no difference,  
26 because his sentence was lower than the guidelines range calculated with the benefit of -3  
27 for acceptance of responsibility. In other words, even assuming his counsel was ineffective,  
28 it made no difference here.

1 Finally, Placido's counsel was clearly not ineffective for the reasons Placido advances,  
2 because he obtained the same concessions for Placido that Placido thinks he should have  
3 received.

4 In short, the claims Placido raises in his § 2255 motion were waived, and in any event  
5 are moot. The motion is **DENIED**.

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7 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

8 DATED: February 25, 2015

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10 **HONORABLE LARRY ALAN BURNS**  
11 United States District Judge  
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